

5.2 Characteristics of evidence intermediaries

Evidence intermediaries can be described based on many characteristics. Here we present 10 such characteristics. One evidence intermediary may be large and diversified in its strategic focus, as well as highly committed to its endowment-enabled independence using evidence to shape societal agendas over long periods of time. Another entity may be small and specialized in a particular area, and dependent on service contracts with product manufacturers (e.g., pharmaceutical companies) to support decision-making.

If one can consistently predict that a conclusion from an evidence intermediary will involve either a government-led or market-based solution or will involve a policy or program that will benefit (or a product or service offered by) a group aligned with or funding the intermediary, then there is a good chance that the entity is motivated more by values or private interests, respectively, than by evidence.

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